

Overseas Press Club Bulletin

November, 1988

Vol. 43 No. 9

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(212) 983-4655

Packed House Hears Wick on Glasnost



USIA crew covers its chief.



Victor Rieser poses a question.



Rapt audience listens.

(See story on page 4)

First, The Bad News!

Board Grips with Money Woes

"Unless we raise some money we won't be able to pay our January bills," Norman Schorr said, passing his treasurer's report around to board members. That set the tone of the October luncheon meeting.



Schorr

The report showed a 6.50 percent shortage in December and 13.5 percent in January. No one needed an explanation for this fiscal crisis. Everybody knew.

Simply, membership dues do not cover expenses. There is, for instance, a monthly payment of \$7,000 to the Chemists' club for OPC privileges at five other private clubs. The fee also assures that OPC will be able to return to its old home on E. 41st street once this location has been transformed into the elegant Rumford House.

How to dig the club out of the hole? Does anybody have a generous rich uncle? Board members offered suggestions ranging from charity events to going with hat in hand to foundations or corporations.

Nearly every idea prompted heated discussions and eventually landed in the laps of Felice Levin and Robert U. Brown, a finance committee formed on the spot by OPC president, Len Saffir. Saffir said he will coordinate their fund-raising efforts until he chooses a chairman.

He sees no reason for doom and gloom. "Our financial condition today is no worse than it was ten years ago," he said, "and the next years will be the best in OPC history."

Besides, chairman Larry Smith and his committee have already begun an ambitious new program to expand OPC membership to qualified persons.

The result they hope will be a host of new members to help pay the bills.

Now The Good News!

Big Events in Works for 50th Year

Although the annual awards dinner May 11 will be, as usual, the highlight of the year, OPC will mark its 50th anniversary with a number of other "keystones," H. L. Stevenson has told board members.



Stevenson

Looking into his crystal ball, the chairman of the year-long celebration sees "a lot of fun and social events" but OPC will set the tone by making a serious contribution to press coverage around the world.

"We must consider the broader implications...how can it be improved, what role does the foreign reporter play today,

the public's conception of foreign reportage on television and in print," he says.

Currently under consideration are activities such as a major newspaper exhibition, a reunion of World War II correspondents, a symposium of world leaders in journalism, tie-in programs with college level journalism students or international relations students.

Stevenson and his committee is also discussing a major research project dealing with foreign news, dissemination and public perceptions, and the changing role of the foreign reporter.

Surrounding these activities will be lots of parties, ranging from elegant to informal, according to Stevenson. So get out your glad rags.

Photos by Fred Ferguson.

Correspondents' Journals Abroad Are Fat and Stylish

Editor's Note: Asked to tell us what kind of publications foreign correspondents clubs abroad offer their members, Al Kaff filed this report. The two monthlies described are financed in part by display ads, illustrating The Bulletin's potential if similarly financed.

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NO. 1 SHIMBUN was founded in the 1960s by former club president **John Roderick**, now retired from the *AP*, and named for the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan's historic Tokyo address, No. 1 Shimbun Alley.

The Tokyo General Post Office has permitted the club to keep the same mailing address even though it has moved three times within a half-mile radius since it opened immediately after World War II.

Years ago an editor noted that club members who eat and drink together rarely saw their colleagues in print because they filed for publications in other parts of the world. So *No. 1 Shimbun* started reprinting selected dispatches by members. The editor, currently **Shelly Smith**, a free lance writer, assigns



other articles.

Printed in tabloid newspaper format, *No. 1 Shimbun's* recent articles have included an *AP* dispatch from Batavia, N.Y., about Beirut hostage **Terry Anderson**, formerly based in Tokyo; an article about the Persian Gulf written by Richard Pyle, *AP*; covering South Korean elections by Janice Fuhrman, *UPI*; and a report on a nude musicians bar in Tokyo.

With more than 1000 members, the club is located on the 20th floor of Yurakucho Denki Building in central Tokyo, commanding a magnificent view of the imperial palace grounds. It has two dining rooms, two bars, workroom and library.

THE CORRESPONDENT, the monthly slick-paper magazine of the Foreign Correspondents Club of Hong Kong is edited by longtime Hong Kong journalist, **Viswa Nathan**. It features color photographs on the covers and inside.

Recent articles described operations of *The International Herald Tribune* and *USA Today*, work of photojournalists by newspaperman Vernon Ram, Club member Linda Rose's experiences when struck by an automobile while in New York, and a report on former South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan's first news conference for foreign correspondents by John McBeth.

The Hong Kong Club's dining room, two bars, function rooms, library, workroom and recreation room are housed in a central Hong Kong brick structure that originally was an ice house storage building.

Who's doing what, when, here, there, everywhere

It's back to school for **Gilbert E. Busch**, ex-*UPI* and retired (1974) New York P.R. executive. He has joined the adjunct faculty at Florida Institute of Technology, where he is teaching corporate finance and marketing. A retired USMC, **Busch** is also a management consultant specializing in organizing and developing strategic plans.

* * *

Longtime OPCer **A.F. Gonzalez, Jr.** is back at his California headquarters after addressing an international conference of industrial executives on how to deal with the press in a crisis situation. Stating that "whether it is an airplane crash or a foundered cruiseship, this kind of coverage can be bewildering to people unaccustomed to dealing with the press."

Gonzalez is the San Diego correspondent for *People*, a contributing editor for *M.D.* magazine and a frequent contributor to many newspapers and magazines.

* * *

Member **Josephine Lyons**, writer-producer of *ABC Special Projects*, just back from the Coast where she saw pre-released rushes of Disney TV Movie, "Miss Fourth of July, Goodbye." Josephine is co-producer of this film which is scheduled for December release.

* * *

David Bonavia, 48, died in September after a long career as a newsman in London, Africa, the Soviet Union, China, Vietnam and Hong Kong. David wrote for *The Times* (London) and the weekly *Far Eastern Economic Review* (Hong Kong). After studying Chinese in Cambridge, he started his career in journalism with *Reuters* in London. He wrote a number of books dealing with China and the Soviet Union.

* * *

Victor Waldron, who writes on world hunger problems in

London, met OPC officers and board members in September to discuss the Club from an overseas perspective.

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In Las Vegas, where everything is done in a big way, *Las Vegas Sun* editor **Bryan Greenspun** invited many friends of veteran OPCer and syndicated economic columnist **Johannes Steel** to a two-day 80th birthday celebration, October 25-26. The event was attended by Johannes's friends from all over the United States as well as England, Australia, Germany, Italy, Switzerland.

* * *

In 1938, a year before OPC was born, **Ed Williams** took note of the number of housewives dumping their old iceboxes for refrigerators, and joined the journalism side of the frozen food business. The publication he founded, "Quick Frozen Foods International," has chronicled the miracles of food storage and preparation from the early days of Clarence Birdeye to the contemporary era of the microwave.

The pioneer OPC member is now celebrating his golden anniversary as a publisher, getting a head start on OPC's own half-centennial celebration.

* * *

Yvonne Beaudry had an article in the *Toronto Star* about Quebec's North Shore which she describes as a paradise for rich sportsmen. She also has a nostalgic piece in the November issue of *Silurian News* about her days at Columbia University school of journalism and a summer job at the RKO in New York.

Overseas members: Send items to Al Kaff, Cornell University News Service, 840 Hanshaw Road, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850-1548.

Domestic members: Drop a note or clip to Ralph Gardner, OPC Bulletin, Suite 2116, 310 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017. Pictures welcomed too!

Up-And-Coming

Friday, Nov. 11—World Yacht Cruise, New York Harbor, Dining and Dancing arranged by Chemists' Club. Reservations 212-532-7649.

Tuesday, Nov. 15, 5:30 p.m.—Mitchell Stephens, Author, "A History of News: From the Drum to Satellite." Womens' National Republican Club, 3 West 51st Street. Members Free, Guests \$5. Cash Bar. Reservations Mary Novick 983-4655.

December—See Bulletin for dates of Holiday Party and other Activities.

January 1989—OPC Begins Golden Anniversary Jubilee.

April 9, 1989—Happy Fiftieth Birthday, Overseas Press Club!

May 11, 1989—Super Overseas Press Club Awards Dinner.

NEW MEMBERS

ACTIVE NON-RESIDENTS

Dotson Rader
Herbert G. Stein
Jack Walsh
Steve Zorbas

NEW APPLICATIONS

ACTIVE RESIDENT

John O. Koehler—President, Koehler International LTD.
Sponsors: *H. L. Stevenson, R. Edward Jackson*
Carol Pozefsky—President, Northeast Broadcasting
Sponsors: *Jean Sprain Wilson, Anita Diamont*

REINSTATEMENT

Bernard Morris—Free Lance Writer

Why Don't We...?

Roundtable for OPC?

Dear Editor:

Why doesn't OPC have its own Roundtable like the famous old Algonquin as well as some other private clubs I happen to know about?

It would be so simple. Just reserve a large table one day a week at one of the mid-town Clubs welcoming our Chemists' Club cards. Any OPC member could, when there is the time and inclination, drop in for good talk and companionship.

The table wouldn't even have to be round.

Jean Baer

Editor's note: Send your responses, ideas and suggestions to the Bulletin in care of the Overseas Press Club.

OPC to Hear Stephens Nov. 15

Gore and Gossip Here to Stay

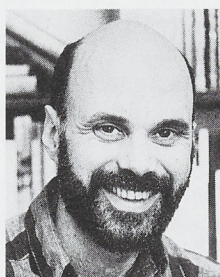
"I came from a news oriented family," relates Mitchell Stephens, explaining how his career as student of news took its course.

"We were known in our neighborhood in New York City as 'the ones who sat at the dinner table and talked about China.'"

Now, in Alpine, N.J. where he lives with his wife, Esther Davidowitz, magazine writer, and three young children, he is known in the neighborhood for those funny old newspapers on his walls.

Actually, his reputation has spread considerably farther than the neighborhood and has everything to do with the publication of his lively book, "A History of News: From the Drum to the Satellite." It has already been widely reviewed and highly praised.

Overseas Press Club members will learn why when Stephens is Book Night guest, at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15 at the Women's National Republican Club, 3 W. 51st St., New York City. (Call Mary Novick, 212-983-4655, for reservations.)

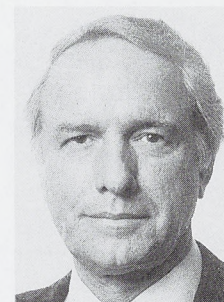


Though the 39-year-old New York University Journalism professor is as likely to talk about the Peloponnesians or the Zulus as Eddie Fisher's love life, it is all with the same delicious gossipiness. He keeps a scholarly eye on The Good Grey Ladies, but his hobby, he says, is reading the tabloids.

Along with the past, Stephens has also seen the data banks of the future and there is more of the same, he says. Computer-organized news services will continue to offer more gruesome murder stories, Hollywood gossip, and baseball than, say, articles on African politics.

Stephens believes that "unless human beings are rewired," sensational journalism will always be with us. Even the most sophisticated publications give their readers what they want to read, not necessarily what they ought to know.

Mini-profile Always an Election



Mitchenfelder

Unlike most OPC members, Joseph Michenfelder still has his eye on an election—maybe not in the United States but in Latin America, Africa, Asia and Europe, at least those countries which hold them.

A new member, Michenfelder is senior vice president of Public Affairs Analysts, Inc. and helping the right guy get elected is his business.

Michenfelder's journalistic experience goes back to the '60s where he was formerly an editor for Nicias Alice das N. America in Lima, Peru. He has since been around the world, among other things serving as consultant to UNICEF, UNESCO and WHO and as a trustee for the Council of Hemisphere Affairs.

But these days politics is his business, that is, if he likes the politics of the candidate. He's not willing to work for just anyone who wants to run a country.

* * *

Editor's Note: Since getting to know each other is one of the pleasures of OPC, The Bulletin will when space permits present mini-profiles of new members.

Help Wanted!
**HERE COMES
THE BIG YEAR!**

Artists or Design Experts—to help with new logo and other related items for letterheads, OPC literature, posters, various publications, reflecting over 50 years and future.

History Buffs—to research key dates, those OPCers involved in early years, all major activities of the OPC plus corresponding world events. Need club history, a calendar, material for museum-type exhibits. (For example, we may display books written by OPC member through the years.

Newsphoto Buffs—to determine availability of the best newspictures from overseas during the past 50 years for possibly a major exhibit.

Phone Mary Novick—212-983-4655.

USIA Chief Concedes U.S. Scribes Still Lack Equal Access

By FRED FERGUSON

Despite strides toward a new openness—perestroika, if you will—in U.S.-Soviet media/cultural relations, Charles Z. Wick concedes there remains an absence of equal access for U.S. correspondents in Moscow.

An OPC audience of more than 100, heard the United States Information Agency director outline each of the dozen agreements reached in Moscow in the second round of US/Soviet Information talks.

"These agreements—while only a beginning—are a breakthrough and are important first steps in establishing a freer flow of information and a more constructive relationship," said Wick, Oct. 18, reporting on the success of meetings three weeks earlier.

But, questioned about equal access for journalists by noted columnist and OPC Past President Victor Riesel, he sought to qualify his prepared text, saying, "I did not mean to convey euphoria."

"No, we do not have reciprocal access," Wick said. Russian correspondents in the U.S. have full access to news sources but the U.S. correspondents in the U.S.S.R. are still restricted as to who they can talk to, he said. But he said the situation is improving and added, "We have to give peace a chance."

Reiterating the theme of his speech, he said today's "electronic revolution" meant "the Russian people have VCRs and satellite broadcasts, giving these people the real information."

"The steadily accelerating system of instantaneous global communication"

today musters world public opinion as a force so potent it strongly influences governments and imposes openness in international diplomacy, Wick said.

Armed with the knowledge of "what they have to fight for," the USIA chief said the Russian people will seek to add even greater impetus to Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev's perestroika policy.

Taking personal credit for the information talks, having proposed them to Gorbachev at the Washington Summit last December, Wick said the "breakthrough" agreements resulting from the Moscow talks included establishment of a *Voice of America* Moscow bureau, expansion of the availability of U.S. films in the U.S.S.R., a prohibition against film piracy, arrangements for sale for rubles in the Soviet Union of magazines published by *TIME Inc.*, *Newsweek Inc.*, the *International Herald Tribune* and the *The Washingtonian*.

Also an "early warning system" to bring to the attention of the leadership of the two governments "disinformation" initiated by one to which the other objects "before they become a part of a worldwide campaign."

OPC Speaker Walt Bassow Said It, Too

As OPC members listened to Charles W. Wick, Director of the United States Information agency, speak hopefully of the beneficial effects of Glasnost for American reporters, they must have recalled the cynicism of an earlier Press Club speaker, Walt Bassow.

"Don't expect there will be fundamental changes in the working conditions of correspondents in Moscow," he warned last March, insisting that if Gorbachev's policy of Glasnost succeeds, the change may take generations.

Dr. Bassow, president of the World Environment Center, has expressed that view in his new book, "The Moscow Correspondents." (William Morrow, \$18.95) He went to Moscow as a correspondent for *UPI* in '55 and was kicked out in '62 while working for *Newsweek* when a piece he wrote about Soviet humor touched an official nerve.

Reporters are doing a better job than when they first went to Moscow in 1921, he told his audience. But there are still defects—mainly the language barrier.

He found from his own experiences as one of a limited number of Russian-speaking journalist that "we could find our way into the hearts of Russian friends and their minds."

Overseas Press Club Bulletin

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CLASSIFIED

VOLUNTEERS WANTED—To write and process copy, help with proofreading and layout for OPC Bulletin. Five hours a month. A great way to know your fellow members. Phone Editor—212-945-0466.

Overseas Press Club of America, Inc.
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New York, N.Y. 10017
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